

At page 3, lines 19-20, after "tampon", please delete "according to another embodiment", and after "invention", please insert -- having closed grooves --.

At page 4, line 13, after "cross-section", please delete "(Fig. 2)".

At page 4, line 19, before "longitudinal", please delete "According to the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 2, the", and insert instead -- The --.

At page 4, line 21, before "Only", please delete the sentence "In another embodiment shown in Fig. 4, the longitudinal ribs 17 touch one another near their distal ends 20 and essentially obstruct the view of the longitudinal grooves 18."

At page 4, line 27, after "tampon 10.", please add the sentence -- It will be readily recognized that the resulting tampon may have outwardly open grooves, as illustrated in Fig. 2; closed grooves, as illustrated in Fig. 4; or a combination of both open and closed grooves. --.

At page 5, lines 8-9, please delete "of the absorbent portion", and insert instead -- without the withdrawal string --.

At page 7, line 26, after "according to", please delete "another embodiment of".

In the Drawing:

Please replace the drawing sheets 1, depicting Figs. 1-3 and 10; 3, depicting Figs. 5-7; and 4, depicting Figs. 8-9, with the new sheets of informal drawings attached. The amendments included in this new sheet are (1) the extension of the line from reference numerals 17 in Fig. 10, and (2) the extension of the lines from reference numerals 12 and 13 in Figs. 6-9.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10-12, 15, 16, 20 and 23 as follows:

1. (Four times amended) A tampon for feminine hygiene, comprising a generally cylindrical absorbent portion having a